-INTELLOFAX .

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China COUNTRY

SUBJECT

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Conditions in Shantung Daturn to CIA Library

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- The expected starvation among the people of Shantung has already begun. Farmers have been instructed to store grass, herbs, and roots, ordinarily used as fuel, to use as food for the winter. Lany sweet potato vines, usually used for animal fodder, are being hauled into Tsingtao for human consumption. All able-bodied men have long ago been conscripted for military service, and with only crippled soldiers, women, children, and old men to till the land, production has been poor. There has been drought this summer and the sweet potato crop has largely failed.*
- 2. Although the Communists are taking more from and giving less to the peasants than did the Nationalists, there is no evidence of revolts or dissident movements among thom. There is no real leadership among the dissatisfied people, and there is fear of the Communists among all classes.
- 3. Workers in factories in Communist occupied areas, especially in the interior, produce only at the lowest possible level. **
- 4. All Chinese and many foreigners were instructed to buy and fly Chinese Communist Government flags for the International Feace Day celebrations in Tsingtao of the first days of October. They were ordered to hang a red star lantern over each of the entries of their homes, shops, and offices and to have them lighted at night. They were told to display Communist propaganda literature. Orders were given to each organization to have certain exhibitions and to provide a specified number of persons for parades.

Most Chinese taking part in the numerous parades say they do so only at direct orders of the authorities. They are quoted as saying that Nationalists some took part because they felt inwardly moved Under the Communists there is no choice.

comment. An indication that the Communists are not planning belief for Shantung this winter is found in reports of shipments of flour from Tsingtao to the north.

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Comment.

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